

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SY-02 DOE-01 SOE-01  
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 3206

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10166

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, IT, ENRG  
SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT TO US BY MINISTER DONAT-CATTIN

REF: STATE 130618

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN REFTTEL, EMBASSY MET WITH DONAT-CATTIN COLLABORATORS (DC DEPUTY PINO LECCISI AND JOURNALIST FRANCO LISI) ON MAY 30 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE DONAT-CATTIN VISIT TO US. IN RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT A DATE AFTER LABOR DAY WOULD PERMIT US SIDE TO ORGANIZE A BETTER VISIT, DONATACATTIN'S ASSOCIATES READILY AGREED TO POSTPONEMENT, PERHAPS TO MID-SEPTEMBER. THEY SAID THE MINISTER WILL PROBABLY BE UNABLE TO TRAVEL LATE IN THE FALL, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF ANTICIPATED HEIGHTENED POLITICAL ACTIVITY REQUIRING HIS PRESENCE IN ITALY.

2. WE SUGGESTED THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO ITALY IN JUNE, ENERGY DEPUTY SECRETARY O'LEARY MIGHT EXTEND AN INVITATION TO DONAT-CATTIN FOR A VISIT IN SEPTEMBER. LECCISI SAID THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA, ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE IF O'LEARY EXTENDED THE  
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INVITATION ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER.

3. DURING COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION, WE ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN A CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT DONAT-CATTIN HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH IN US. OUR INTERLOCUTORS AGAIN STRESSED THE DUAL FOCUS OF THE VISIT--ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL. IN HIS MINISTERIAL CAPACITY, DONAT-CATTIN IS

ANXIOUS TO MEET WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND HIS PRINCIPAL AIDES AND EXPERTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL ENERGY COOPERATION AND RELATED ENERGY ISSUES. HE ALSO HOPES TO VISIT US FIRMS AND INSTALLATIONS IN ENERGY FIELD, AS WELL AS US BANKS. DONAT-CATTIN APPARENTLY PLANS TO VISIT NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND WEST COAST FOR A TOTAL OF ABOUT TEN DAYS.

4. IN ADDITIONAL, AS A LEADING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) POLITICIAN, DONAT-CATTIN REGARDS TRIP AS IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH US EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH POLITICAL LEADERS INCLUDING DEPARTMENT AND NSC OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH ITALY. LECCISI AND LISI POINT TO THE IMPORTANT INTERNAL DECISIONS THE DC WILL HAVE TO TAKE WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR CONCERNING THE POST-MORO LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY, THE DECEMBER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN THE SPRING. IT IS CLEAR THAT DONAT-CATTIN PLACES GREAT STORE IN OBTAINING ASSURANCES THAT HE WILL BE RECEIVED AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL IN THE ADMINISTRATION. HIS COLLABORATORS REITERATED DONAT-CATTIN'S DESIRE TO BE RECEIVED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND/OR DR. BRZEZINSKI.

5. WE TOLD LECCISI AND LISI THAT WE WERE CONFIDENT  
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THAT A GOOD PROGRAM COULD BE ARRANGED FOR DONAT-CATTIN IN BOTH ENERGY AND POLITICAL FIELDS. THE MINISTER SHOULD UNDERSTAND, WE EMPHASIZED, THAT THE DEMANDS ON THE VICE PRESIDENT'S AND DR. BRZEZINSKI'S TIME WERE IMMENSE. WHILE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD CERTAINLY ASSIST THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN ARRANGING APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS WITH US DECISION AND OPINION MAKERS, WE COULD NOT PROMISE THE VICE PRESIDENT OR NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR. FYI: LECCISI AND LISI WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK ON JUNE 2 TO MAKE PRELIMINARY CONTACTS FOR THE VISIT. IN WASHINGTON THEY WILL BE WORKING THROUGH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY.

6. COMMENT EMBASSY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DONAT-CATTIN'S VISIT AS VERY WORTHWHILE IN THE CONTEXT OF INCREASED HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN ITALY AND THE US. IN PLANNING FOR VISIT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT ITALIAN MINISTERS ARE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL LEADERS. THUS, WHILE DONAT-CATTIN'S MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR A BUSINESS VISIT FOCUSED ON ENERGY FIELD, HE WILL ALSO BE VISITING WASHINGTON

AS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND POWERFUL SENIOR LEADERS OF HIS PARTY. THREE POINTS DESERVE SPECIAL EMPHASIS. FIRST, DONAT-CATTIN IS THE LEADER OF ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING WINGS OF THE DC WHICH HAVE RETAINED THEIR IDEOLOGICAL COMPACTNESS. AS THE DC SORTS OUT ITS LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS IN THE POST-MORO PERIOD, DONAT-CATTIN'S ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP CAN BE EXPECTED TO EXERCISE A SIGNIFICANT AND PERHAPS DECISIVE ROLE. SECOND, DONAT-CATTIN HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND OF THE US IN THE PAST (DUE IN PART TO HIS FRANKLY IRASCIBLE CHARACTER). A WELL-ORGANIZED VISIT COULD DO MUCH TO OVERCOME PAST MISUNDERSTANDINGS. THIRD, DONAT-CATTIN IS ONE OF THE FEW SENIOR DC LEADERS WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN EXPOSED  
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TO THE US. HE WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM DIRECT CONTACTS WITH LEADING US DECISION AND OPINIONMAKERS. WE WILL FORWARD SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS AT A LATER TIME. FOR THE PRESENT, WE URGE THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO ASSURE DONAT-CATTIN THAT WE ARE READY TO ASSIST IN WORKING OUT A USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE SCHEDULE IN BOTH ENERGY AND POLITICAL FIELD. GARDNER

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**TAGS:** PINT, ENRG, IT, US, (DONAT CATTIN, CARLO)  
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